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SW-02519A-06-0015

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AZ CORP COMMISSION  
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March 30, 2006

Dear Chairman Jeff Hatch-Miller,

I'm writing to protest to proposed rate increase by Gold Canyon Sewer Company, Docket No. SW-02519A-~~00-06398~~. The present rate of \$35.00 per month is one of the highest I know in the area. The Gold Canyon Sewer Company policy of year round monthly billing compounds the high rate even though most of MountainBrook Village residents are using their services for a maximum of 6 months, and 4 months is the norm. This effectively brings the cost to more than \$70.00 per month. Now they want to raise the charge to \$70.00 per month, year round. This is outrageous. I understand the need for private business to earn a profit, however, charging absent residents for services not rendered, Gold Canyon Sewer Company is already receiving an effective \$70.00 per month. Even a 10% increase is not justified, let alone a 100% increase.

Sincerely,

Roy Sordi  
MountainBrook Village  
8240East Pinnacle Circle  
Gold Canyon, AZ85218

Jeff Miller, Chairman  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 W Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

29 March, 2006

William A. Mundell, Commisioner, ACC  
Marc Spitzer, Commissioner, ACC  
Mike Gleason, Commissioner, ACC  
Kristin K. Mayes, Commissioner, ACC

Reference Docket: SW02519A-06-0015

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing in protest regarding Gold Canyon Sewer Company's (GCSC) request for a rate increase in excess of 100%. As a six month resident and therefore a part time user of this service we feel the current rate is not only excessive, but the proposed new rate is outrageous. It appears GCSC has entered into a negotiation whereby the highest most ridiculous number (shock?) will be eventually reduced to something they really want. We've all seen this sort of thing in tourist markets. And yes, it's of mystical wonder to see how all GCSC numbers fit and justify their request.

This company made assurances that the rate would remain \$35 a month for five years after the completion of the increase in capacity and odor 'improvements.'

To date the company has certainly increased its capacity. However, it is still deficient in its ability to control the odor. Therefore, the second half of their assurances has yet to be met to the satisfaction of nearby businesses and homeowners.

### **SOME SOLUTIONS**

In 2005 it cost this homeowner ~\$295 for water service. About 30% of that charge went into drip irrigation. That meant it cost us ~\$207 for the water to be processed through the sewer system. In the same year we were charged \$420 for sewer service or about double what the water cost! There is something wrong with this picture and we trust the Commission will consider the aspect of billing according to usage. We are sure those records could be easily accessed on a monthly basis even though both services are private entities. In other words, employ metered usage based upon each residence water meter reading.

Several years ago the idea of hooking our system into the Apache Junction sewer system was a possibility. For some reason it died. We request the Commission review this possibility. This solution solves several problems all at once:

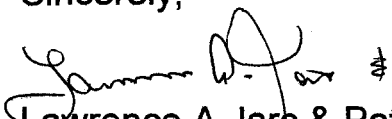
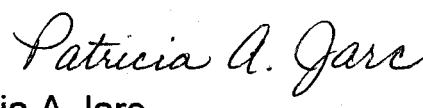
- 1) Gets rid of the unsightly sewer facility at our 'back door' which should never have been built there in the first place,
- 2) Permanently removes the odor issue from our neighborhood and the Bashas business center,
- 3) Frees up the land for commercial prospects,
- 4) Greatly improves the quality of life in the community,
- 5) Eases the burden on those of us who are on fixed income.

### **THE BOTTOM LINE**

No rate increase is necessary. There are more creative solutions to Gold Canyon Sewer Company's 'problem.'

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

 & 

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Copies to:

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Residential Utilities Consumer Office – RUCO  
1110 W Washington, Suite 200, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Andy Kurtz, President  
Mountainbrook Village HOA

Pat Prince, Chairman  
The Gold Canyon Community Associations United

Apache/Gold Canyon Independent  
Apache Junction/Gold Canyon News  
Arizona Republic, The Mesa Republic  
The East Valley Tribune

**Wednesday, March 29, 2006**

**Honorable Jeff Hatch-Miller  
Chairman  
State of Arizona  
Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2296**

*06-0015*

**Reference: GCWWTF Case# Docket No. SW 02519A-~~00~~-0638  
Utilities Division  
Gold Canyon Sewer Company Request for  
Over 100% Residential Monthly Fee Increase  
from \$35.00/Month to over \$70.00/Month**

**Dear Jeff:**

**We are residents of the Gold Canyon, Arizona. We read in the Apache Junction Gold Canyon News, and the Arizona Tribune Newspaper that the Gold Canyon sewer company is trying to pass legislation that would allow it to over double it's monthly payment for only the sewer utility service that serves this community.**

**We attended a Gold Canyon Community Associations United meeting for all of the Gold Canyon HOA's at the Mountain Brook Community Center Mesquite Room on March 28, 2006 to discuss the proposed monthly fee increase from \$35.00/month to over \$70.00/month.**

**We learned that this Sewer organization had attempted to improve the processing, and were also going to eliminate foul odors that were evident in the surrounding areas. We also learned that prior to this sewer company embarking on the improvement task, they promised the community, in meetings, by written circulars, and articles, etc. that this would not result in an increase in service fees for at least a five year period and the costs would not be levied on the customers at all!**

**Now they are asking for this exorbitant increase that is totally out of line and also goes against the promise made before they started the activity. We are appalled that any Company would even have the gall to attempt to raise rates of any kind let alone to this level, feeling that they are providing the community a good service. Most would agree they are definitely not providing good service.**

As a result, we submit to you the following comments:

- 1.) The foul odor is still there after all of this expenditure and activity and as far as I can see, very little was accomplished other than expanding their processing capability so they can get additional funds from other communities.
- 2.) We are wondering where the justification is for the current rate of \$35/month which is higher than most communities charge for the same service. According to the HOA people in charge of the community utility services, there was not a cost analysis done for this service in the first place and should be done before a rate increase is even considered, much less the exorbitant rate that is forthcoming!
- 3.) A cost analysis and presentation has not been done nor presented to the community for the proposed ridiculous rate that they are asking for.

We certainly hope that our representatives on this board will request the above services be provided before any rate adjustments are even considered. You will be doing us a great service by providing this intervention. We will be glad to support your efforts in any way necessary to get the job done.

We appreciate your attention.

Sincerely,

*Ripley B. and Marion E. Sartell*

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